

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 through 70 were previously canceled.

Claim 71 (currently amended): A method for signaling content quality of preexisting independently created digital data between at least two digital devices having a digital source and a digital receiver, independent of a user, the preexisting independently created digital data having a plurality of data records, each of the plurality of data records having a plurality of data fields, the method comprising the following steps:

analyzing quality of the content of the preexisting independently created digital data using one or more predefined sets of criteria without user interaction;

grading the results of the analysis without accessing the preexisting independently created digital data, the grade indicative of the quality of the content of the preexisting independently created digital data using at least one or more predefined sets of criteria without user interaction;
and,

marking the preexisting independently created digital data with the grading results in at least one form without changing and without accessing the preexisting independently created digital data and without user interaction;

wherein a first digital receiver dynamically accesses the mark of the preexisting independently created digital data without accessing the preexisting independently created digital data to determine suitability for subsequent use of the preexisting independently created digital data;

whereby a different digital receiver without user interaction can independently determine suitability from the mark for another subsequent use of the preexisting independently created digital data without accessing the preexisting digital data.

Claim 72 (currently amended): The method for signaling content quality as recited in claim 70 71 further comprising the step of:

remarking the grading results in at least one form without changing and without accessing the preexisting independently created digital data, the remark indicative of the quality of the content of the preexisting independently created digital data using at least one or more different predefined sets of criteria;

whereby another digital receiver can independently determine suitability from the remark for another subsequent use of the preexisting independently created digital data without accessing the preexisting independently created digital data.

Claim 73 (currently amended): The method for signaling content quality as recited in claim 70 71 further comprising the steps of:

regarding the results of the analysis without accessing the preexisting independently created digital data;

marking the regrading results in at least one form without changing and without accessing the preexisting independently created digital data, the mark of the regrading results indicative of the quality of the content of the preexisting independently created digital data using at least one or more different predefined sets of criteria;

whereby another digital receiver can independently determine suitability from the mark of the regrading results for another subsequent use of the preexisting independently created digital data without accessing the preexisting independently created digital data.

Claim 74 (currently amended): The method for signaling content quality as recited in claim 70 71 further comprising the step of:

associating a portion of a file name to the marking.

Claim 75 (currently amended): The method for signaling content quality as recited in claim 70 71 wherein the quality of the content corresponds to a particular data field of the plurality of data fields.

Claim 76 (currently amended): The method for signaling content quality as recited in claim 70 71 wherein the quality of the content corresponds to a particular record of the plurality of data records.

Claim 77 (currently amended): The method for signaling content quality as recited in claim 70 71 wherein at least one of the one or more predefined sets of criteria is a predefined

function.

Claim 78 (currently amended): The method for signaling content quality as recited in claim 70 71 wherein at least one of the one or more predefined sets of criteria accesses an independent database.

Claim 79 (currently amended): The method for signaling content quality as recited in claim 70 71 wherein at least one of the one or more predefined sets of criteria for determining the quality of the content is an externally defined function.

Claim 80 (currently amended): The method for signaling content quality as recited in claim 70 71 wherein the mark is a numeric value, a color, or a Boolean.

Claim 81 (currently amended): A system for signaling content quality of preexisting independently created digital data between at least two digital devices having a digital source and a digital receiver, independent of a user, the preexisting independently created digital data having a plurality of data records, each of the plurality of data records having a plurality of data fields, the system method comprising the following steps:

analysis means for analyzing quality of the content of preexisting independently created digital data using one or more predefined sets of criteria without user interaction;

grading means for grading the results of the analysis without accessing the preexisting independently created data, the grade indicative of the quality of the content of the preexisting

independently created digital data using at least one or more predefined sets of criteria without user interaction; and,

marking means for marking the preexisting independently created digital data with the grading results in at least one form without changing and without accessing the preexisting independently created digital data and without user interaction;

wherein a first digital receiver dynamically accesses the mark of the preexisting independently created digital data without accessing the preexisting independently created digital data to determine suitability for subsequent use of the preexisting independently created digital data;

whereby a different digital receiver without user interaction can independently determine suitability from the mark for another subsequent use of the preexisting independently created digital data without accessing the preexisting digital data.

Claim 82 (currently amended): The system for signaling content quality as recited in claim 80 81 further comprising:

remarking means for remarking the grading results in at least one form without changing and without accessing the preexisting independently created digital data, the remark indicative of the quality of the content of the preexisting independently created digital data using at least one or more different predefined sets of criteria;

whereby another digital receiver can independently determine suitability from the remark for another subsequent use of the preexisting independently created digital data without accessing the preexisting independently created digital data.

Claim 83 (currently amended): The system for signaling content quality as recited in claim
80 81 further comprising:

 regrading means for regrading the results of the analysis without accessing the preexisting data;

 second marking means for marking the regrading results in at least one form without changing and without accessing the preexisting independently created digital data, the second mark of the regrading results indicative of the quality of the content of the preexisting independently created digital data using at least one or more different predefined sets of criteria;

 whereby another digital receiver can independently determine suitability from the second mark of the regrading results for another subsequent use of the preexisting independently created digital data without accessing the preexisting independently created digital data.

Claim 84 (currently amended): The system for signaling content quality as recited in claim
80 81 further comprising:

 associating means for associating a portion of a file name to the marking.

Claim 85 (currently amended): The system for signaling content quality as recited in claim
80 81 wherein the quality of the content corresponds to a particular data field of the plurality of data fields.

Claim 86 (currently amended): The system for signaling content quality as recited in claim

~~80~~ 81 wherein the quality of the content corresponds to a particular record of the plurality of data records.

Claim 87 (currently amended): The system for signaling content quality as recited in claim ~~80~~ 81 wherein at least one of the one or more predefined sets of criteria is a predefined function.

Claim 88 (currently amended): The system for signaling content quality as recited in claim ~~80~~ 81 wherein at least one of the one or more predefined sets of criteria accesses an independent database.

Claim 89 (currently amended): The system for signaling content quality as recited in claim ~~80~~ 81 wherein at least one of the one or more predefined sets of criteria for determining the quality of the content is an externally defined function.

Claim 90 (currently amended): The system for signaling content quality as recited in claim ~~80~~ 81 wherein the mark is a numeric value, a color, or a Boolean.